

Applicants : Ron S. Israeli, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: Not Yet Known
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growth or stimulation of tumor cells in the subject.--

--78. (Amended) A method of detecting hematogenous micrometastatic tumor cells of a subject, comprising [(A)] performing [nested] polymerase chain reaction (PCR) on blood, bone marrow or lymph node samples of the subject using specific primers that hybridize to the prostate specific membrane antigen [primers, and (B) verifying micrometastases by DNA sequencing and Southern analysis], thereby detecting hematogenous micrometastatic tumor cells of the subject.--

REMARKS

Applicants have hereinabove cancelled claims 2-5, 7-11, 14-21, 24-33, 36-44, 46, 48, 53-73, and 80-89 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation or a divisional application. Further, applicants have hereinabove amended claims 35, 45, 49, 74, 77 and 78. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 12, 13, 22, 23, 34, 35, 45, 47, 49-52, and 74-79 are now pending in the subject application.

Applicants have amended claims 35, 45, 49, and 74 to correct their dependencies. Support for claim 77 may be found inter alia in the specification as follows: Page 37, lines 5-9; Page 66, line 5-35; and Figures 11, and 17A-17C. Support for claim 78 may be found inter alia in the specification as follows: Page 20, lines 4-11; Page 39, line 26- Page 40, line 2; Page 86, line 7- Page 87, line 16; and Page 91, lines 5-32. Applicants maintain that the amendments to the claims do not constitute new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of claims 35, 45, 49, 74, 77 and 78.

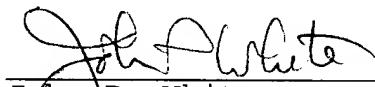
If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned

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attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fee is necessary, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. White
Registration No. 28,678
Attorney for Applicants
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 278-0400